SHRI ANAND SHARMA: I am talking of India, of the Himalayas. In the hills, there are two reasons for felling the trees. One is for fruit packaging in the major hill States, Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal, and every year one hundred thousand fully grown trees are felled. How are you going to save that situation? Secondly, about fuel consumption, to develop an alternative fuel for the hill people is the only way to save forests.

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI: The hon. Member has put a very correct question. Packaging is one of the causes for denudation of forests. We have taken steps, specially with the Himalayan States, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir and other States. They are making use of alternative fuel.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Government of India give more subsidy?

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI: We are giving subsidy and they are converting....

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Declaration of assets by legislators and their family members

*401. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to enact legislation enjoining upon all legislators and their family members to declare their assets; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Agreement with the United States to combat drug trafficking

*406. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to sign an agreement with the United States for jointly combating the trafficking in narcotics; if so, what will be the main features of the agreement and by when it will be signed;

(b) how far Government have cut the legal production of opium on account of alleged threat of leakage; and

(c) how far Government have stepped up international cooperation to combat drug trafficking and in what manner Government are combating transit of narcotics through India to the West European countries and to the United States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) A Draft Agreement on bilateral cooperation covering all aspects of drug problem has been exchanged between Government of USA and the Government of India. As soon as the agreement is finalised, it will be signed.

(b) In India, opium poppy cultivation for the production of opium is mainly export-oriented. In recent years, Indian opium has been facing stiff competition from alternate raw materials which has affected the exports, leading to accumulation of huge stocks of opium in the Government factories. In the circumstances, Government have been constrained to reduce the acreage under cultivation which has been brought down from about 66,000 hectares in 1977-78 to about 15,000 hectares in 1988-89. However, such reduction is not on account of alleged threat of leakage from licit production.